

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03330 061800Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SPC-03

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 NEA-10 DRC-01 /133 W

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R 061258Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6648

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NIAMEY 3330

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NG, AG, EG, LY, MO, TS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT DIORI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO NORTH AFRICA

1. PRESIDENT DIORI DEPARTED NIAMEY NOVEMBER 5 FOR ALGERIA, MOROCCO, TUNISIA, EGYPT AND LIBYA. HE IS TO RETURN NOV 10. IN DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE DIORI RECALLED THAT NIGER HAD STEADFASTLY DEMONSTRATED FRIENDSHIP AND SYMPATHY FOR THE ARABS. HE SAID IT WAS NOW TIME TO OBTAIN ON-TH-SPOT VIEW OF SITUATION AND TOSEE WHETHER NIGER COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE IN CONTRIBUTING TO PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS. HE STATED PEACE IN AREA WAS NOT EXCLUSIVELY TO BE DECIDED BY GREAT POWERS.

2. DECISION TO EMBARK ON FIVE COUNTRY VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN FOLLOWING DIORI'S RETURN EVENING NOV 4 FROM IVORY COAST. GON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND LOCAL ARAB EMBASSIES INFORMED NOV5. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT DIORI REALLY EXPECTS TO ACCOMPLISH BY HIS TRIP OTHER THAN RECEIVE SOME HIGH-LEVEL BRIEFINGS. WITH ALL THE CURRENT COMINGS AND GOINGS IN AREA MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CANNOT YET CONFIRM THAT DIORI WILL EVEN BE ABLE TO MEET ALL FIVE HEADS OF STATE.
BUCHE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NIAMEY03330
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731152/aaaabmeg.tel
Line Count: 52
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 1
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by willialc>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT DIORI LEAVES FOR VISIT TO NORTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, NG, AG, EG, LY, MO, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005